

what oppressive weight will sickness, disappointment, or old age fall upon you. I wish to tell you my friends, were it not for the promise of that inheritance as a relief prepared, those gloomy periods and trying hours would weigh us down into the consolable grief. But that glorious promise will turn the bitter into sweet, and the dark cloud into fringes of silver lining. And if the world has been empty, delusive, and cruel, we look up to heaven and our hearts are gladdened with the bright prospects of a higher, a purer, and a better order of things. If men have been ungrateful, selfish, arbitrary and dignified, it displays before us that supreme Ruler as a compassionate being, who, tho every other friend fail, will never, no, never forsake us. With brother Paul we can say, "we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." "For while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

And we realize by experience thru devotion to God, that the great fountain of inward joy is the exercise of love directed toward a deserving and supreme object, and the assurance of hope, terminating in a lofty and celestial inheritance that fadeth not away. No wonder that Paul, and other good men had their hearts lifted up and filled with glory and satisfaction not to be expressed. It is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." But mark ye, my friends, that unto the pious and devoted mind a glimpse is given of the beauties of the heavenly heirship thru the spirit of God. But the carnal mind cannot comprehend, not being subject to the law of God; but alone is it revealed to the spiritual mind. And these are the pleasures which belong to the highest and best affections of our souls as Christians; whereas, the course and vulgar gratifications of carnal sense reside in lowest regions of moral depravity in the sinner. To the latter, the soul stoops below its native dignity, and leaves a comfortless and mortifying remembrance behind; while the former reviews with applause and delight the awaiting and future glory of that incorruptible inheritance.

The pleasures of carnal sense resemble a foaming and dashing torrent, and in its disorderly course, speedily runs down and leaves an empty, repulsive, and offensive channel. But the pleasures of spiritual sense and devotion to God, resemble the placid and steady current of a pure and crystal river, enlivening the green pastures thru which it flows, and as it glides along, diffuses fertility in lofty inspirations on either side of its banks. Then, to sum up the ben-

efits of devotion to God, and in view of that future and glorious inheritance, we would say that we, as faithful Christians enjoy our lives, improve our natures, enlighten our minds, support our virtues, exalt our happiness, and above all it calms our passions, soothes our sorrows, alleviates affliction by ennobling our hearts, and thus tempers earth for heaven in which we secure a rest for our souls in the mansions of eternal glory as a heritage for evermore. All this you can obtain my dying friends, for the invitation is extended to the poor as well as to the rich, to the low as well as to the high, to the beggar as well as to the prince; "for the faithful of all nations, and kindred, and tongues shall stand before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palms of victory in their hands." And that victory is obtained by devotion and obedience to Christ our great Lawgiver who has promised us co-heirship in his "Father's house," that great cathedral of eternity, whose maker and builder is God, having inscribed within its foundation the names of the holy apostles, its walls garnished with all manner of pearls, its pillars of sapphire, its floors of emerald, its windows aglow with the sunshine of heaven, and the streets paved with pure gold like unto clear glass. I fancy that I see the wide arches reared up in celestial splendor with gallery above gallery, spacious enough for empires and nations to enter, whose thousands upon tens of thousands worship before the throne of God, tuning the harps and cymbals to praise the Lord of hosts. And methinks I hear the heavenly strains of music as they resound thru-out the domain of heaven; and as the great tremulo is unstopped to recall the sufferings past, the quivering notes peal forth the solemn requiem over those who have been persecuted, tortured, burned and beheaded as witnesses for Jesus and the word of God. But now the thrilling and reviving strains pour forth in trumpet tones, and as the harps are unstrung in celebration of that stupendous victory, a voice proclaims, "Inherit the kingdom and enter into the joys of thy Lord."

In conclusion, allow me to portray the closing scenes of the Christian on earth. There is a time with all, and soon coming upon us who are here, when the pulse will lie low in the bosom and beat feebly in the veins; when the spirit will sleep the sleep which apparently knows no waking—sleep in the home of clay, while the windows of mortality are being shut, the doors hung with the invisible crape of sadness, the golden bowl broken, the brilliant sunshine eclipsed, the silvery light of the moon shut out, and the bleak clouds of oblivion float across the passive breast and all vanish away. This is a state, or condition, when all the medical skill will prove ineffective. What then shall raise the spirit anew? What shall make the heart beat music again, and the pulse throb thru all its myriads of channels and halls in the house of new life? Oh! what shall make the brilliant light kiss the

celestial hills for us with all the new awakening glances? What shall make the beautiful rose of Sharon waft its sweet perfumes over us with all its new and lovely tints and variegated shades? I hear a voice! It calls, "Come forth." Ah! it is the voice of Him who has declared himself to be "the resurrection and the life." Then shall it be when heaven opens on our eyes, and when our ears are greeted with seraphic rings of "welcome, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." O, who would not then exclaim, "lend, lend your wings, I mount, I fly! Oh grave! where now is thy victory! Oh death! where now is thy sting! Thank God, who gave us the victory thru Christ Jesus our Lord over death, hell, and the grave; and reserved for us, as his children, an inheritance among the sanctified thru out endless ages of eternity. Amen."

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BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE

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"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for (eis-into) the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38.

Repentance is plainly taught in the Word of God, yet thousands have substituted an unbiblical repentance for that which is taught by God. The majority of church members know nothing about an unconditional surrender, a forsaking of all, and a willingness to obey all that the Gospel commands. Because salvation is by grace a free gift, the work of repentance and heart faith, which includes complete obedience, are overlooked. While salvation is an absolutely free gift, obedience is as essential in accepting it as if we were saved by works and not by faith. Salvation was completed for us 1800 years ago without any faith or works upon our part; but as the medicine that sets by the bedside of the patient must be taken before it can heal, so obedience is necessary in accepting the salvation that Christ completed for us, otherwise it will do us no good at all. God requires a complete surrender of self and submission to the whole will of God.

True, righteousness is imputed by faith before it is actually done, but not until after heart obedience, which includes complete actual obedience according to your ability from the very moment that you believe. Visions, dreams, impressions, feelings, great experiences, days of prayer at the prayer altar until a spirit tells them that they are saved without obedience to the Gospel has been substituted for gospel repentance. This so-called spirit of Christ is held in higher esteem than the Word, hence, leads each one in the way he loves to go and causes many of the conflicting opinions of today. Everything, even an angel from heaven, should be rejected if not in harmony with God's will. Dear reader, won't you come with me to the Gospel? Are you aware that in these last days just before the return of our Lord many